No. LT-757/96)

Accounts (1991-92) of the Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi and related papers.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): Madam, I lay on the Table, under section 25 of the Delhi Development Act, 1957, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

(i) Annual Accounts of the Delhi Development Authority, New Delhi for the year 1991-92, and the Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Statement giving reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above. (Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-653/96).

Leave of Absence

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to inform hon. Members that a letter has been received from Shri R.K. Karanjia stating that his physician has advised him not to undertake any form of travel for some more time. Hence, he is unable to attend the House during the current Session, he has, therefore, requested for grant of Leave of Absence from all sittings of the House during the current Session.

Is it the pleasure of the House that permission be granted to Shri R.K. Karanjia for remaining absent from all the sittings of the House during the current Session?

(No hon. Member dissented.)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Permission to remain absent is granted. Shri R. Margabandhu.

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

SHRI R. MARGABANDHU (Tamil Nadu): Madam, the General Secretary of our party. Dr. J. Jayalalitha was in Delhi on 18th and 19th November, 1996 for tendering evidence before the Jain Commission.

In regard to this above visit, a Tamil daily from Madras by the name *Dinakaran* published a news item on 1.12.96 slating that Members of Parliament belonging to the AIADMK met Dr. Jayalalitha separately during her visit to Delhi and that she handed over to each of them a box containing several lakhs of rupees for not having defected from the party. It also stated that the Members had become very happy on receiving the money and they prostrated at *Amma's* feet and got her blessings. I am enclosing an English version of the news item published in Tamil for your perusal. The above news item is false and fabricated. Neither I nor any MP belonging to my party received any money from our General Secretary ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In a breach of privilege notice, you do not make a statement. You have to mention the breach of privilege was against whom and on what subject. If you read the whole thing then somebody would like to associate himself with it. This is not allowed.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): He will be brief ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. MARGABANDHU: The news item is libellous and has cast aspersions on my integrity and reputation as a Member of Parliament. The news items has also caused me considerable mental anguish and has impeded my functioning as a Member of Parliament. It is contemptuous and is in the nature of character assassination. This news item has denigrated Members of Rajya Sabha belonging to the AIADMK party. There are no Members from our party in the